

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 12/14/2010

GAIN Report Number: TH0167

Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Bangkok Newsletter - December 2010

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Market Development Reports

Approved By:

Prepared By:

FAS Bangkok Staff

Report Highlights:

TH0167 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on Thai agricultural situation, market access for U.S. products, and upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

Big C Acquired Carrefour

After a protracted bidding process, Big C Super Center, a Thailand-based operator of hypermarkets and a subsidiary of Casino Guichard-Perrachon S.A., acquired the business operations of the Thailand Carrefour Group, a French-based retailer of groceries and consumer goods, for a value of 35.5 billion baht (\$1.2 billion). The takeover would immediately expand the number of Big C's outlets from 69 to 111, making it Thailand's largest retailer. More information on the acquisition is available at <http://www.bigc.co.th/en/news/id/2289/>.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Thai FDA Accepts Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness as GMP Certificate Equivalent

U.S. exporters of meat and poultry to Thailand may use FSIS Form 9060-5 Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness as a GMP certificate equivalent required by the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FSIS Form 9060-5 must include the following statement "The products were manufactured in accordance with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Hazard Analysis Critical Point (HACCP) regulatory requirement". This eliminates the need to include a Certificate of Free Sale for U.S. meat and poultry exports to Thailand. Exports of U.S. meat and poultry to Thailand were valued at US\$1.6 million in 2009. More information is available at [GAIN Report TH0166](#).

Thai Cabinet Approves Proposed Tariff-Rate-Quota (TRQ) for Imported Soybeans for 2011-2013

On November 25, 2010, the Thai Cabinet approved an unlimited quota for soybeans imported from WTO member countries for 2011-2013 subject to a zero percent tariff, as proposed by Committee on Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils. This is the first time that the Cabinet approves a TRQ for a period greater than one year. The Minister of Commerce needs to sign off on the proposal to make it official, it's expected that the Minister will sign-off during the latter weeks of December.

Thai Cabinet Approves Tariff-Rate-Quota (TRQ) for Soybean Meal, and Corn and Tariff Rates for Fishmeal for 2011

On November 16, 2010, the Thai Cabinet approved TRQ's for soybean meal, corn and fishmeal for 2011: 1) Soybean meal: The in-quota imports will be subject to an unlimited amount with a two percent tariff rate as opposed of in-quota bounded rates of 20 percent and 119 percent for out-of-quota imports. The import quota under WTO is limited to 8 trade associations. 2) Corn: The in-quota imports remain unchanged to its WTO commitments of 54,700 metric tons, with a 20 percent tariff rate for in-quota imports and 73 percent rate plus a surcharge of 180 baht/mt (approx. \$6/mt) for out-of-quota imports. The sole eligible importer is the Public Warehouse Organization (PWO) and imports must occur

between March 1 to June 30, 2011. 3) Fishmeal: The imports of fishmeal with at least 60 percent protein face a 15 percent tariff rate, and those with less than 60 percent protein content a 6 percent tariff rate in addition this latter product is subjected to an import permit issued from the Ministry of Commerce. It must be noted that some bilateral trade arrangements offer more favorable tariff terms for these products.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Revised Standards for Table Salt

In order to reduce the incidence of iodine deficiency in children and pregnant women, the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has revised its standard for edible salt. Under the "Notification of the Ministry of Public Health Re: Edible Salt", FDA's guidelines require that edible salt must contain iodine of no less than 30 mg per 1 kg of the edible salt, which would include table salt and products containing salt as an ingredient. In addition, the wording of "Iodized Edible Salt" has to be displayed either in the name of the food or in the ingredient list. Both local producers and importers of table salt and foods contain salt are required to abide by the standards set in the notification.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

DVC Product Presentations

FAS/Bangkok can help facilitate digital video conference with Thai importers. Please contact us for more information at agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.

Looking for U.S. Manufacturers or Suppliers

Thai companies want to import:

Corn gluten meal (USA origin) 500 MT, if U.S. exporters are interested please contact Mr. Roy Bartlam, Fairway (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Email: roy@fairway-thailand.com.

Feed wheat, DDGS, stabilized rice bran (SRB), if U.S. exporters are interested please contact Dr. Thanapat Thanuthansombat, Director of Chulakarn Co., Ltd., Email: shulakarn@gmail.com.

Feed grade - whey, skim milk, DDGS, if U.S. exporters are interested please contact Mr. Isara Pienkhuntod, Sales Department Manager, Email: isarap@betagro.com.

FAS/Bangkok Recommends Tantraphan Stores in Chiangmai

FAS/Bangkok recommends U.S. food enthusiasts and lovers to shop at Tantraphan stores in Chiangmai. Tantraphan has four outlets throughout the Chiangmai area which offer an extensive array of U.S. food products such as snacks, wines, fruits, and other high-valued processed products.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COTTON USA's Conference for Asian Yarn Buyers

The COTTON USA will conduct a conference in which it will bring together yarn buyers from Asian countries to meet with Thai spinners who use US cotton. This event will take place during November 29 - December 4, 2010 in Hua-Hin and Bangkok. The conference is part of COTTON USA's highly successful Supply Chain Marketing. More information on the COTTON USA is available at <http://www.cottonusa.com>.

Cotton Incorporated's Mill Visit

Officials of US Cotton Incorporated, Mr. James Prior and Mr. Kent Yuen, will be visiting textile mills and garment manufacturers in Thailand during December 1-10, 2010. They will provide in-house training on fashion trends and technical services to textile manufacturers who use US cotton for their textile products. More information on the Cotton Incorporated is available at <http://www.cottoninc.com>.

AGP Trade Reception

The Ag Processing Inc., a farmer-owned cooperative engaged in the procurement, processing marketing, and transportation of grains and grains products, in association with US soy growers and soy-related industries will host a trade reception at the Davis Bangkok Hotel on December 7, 2010. Key Thai feed manufacturers and importers will participate in the trade reception. More information about Ag Processing Inc. is available at <http://www.agp.com>.

Food Export USA-Northeast Buyers Mission 2011

Kim Chua Trading Ltd., Partnership, a major Thai food importer specializes in dairy, grocery products, and bakery ingredients, has been selected to join Northeast Buyers Mission organized by the Food Export Association of the Midwest USA and Food Export -Northeast during February 6-12, 2010 in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. The importer will meet with U.S. value-added food companies in those three cities and participate in food retail study tours. More information on Food Export USA is available at <http://www.foodexport.org>.

VIV 2011 Update

VIV 2011 will be held in Bangkok on March 9-11, 2011. The number of U.S. companies that will exhibit at USDA's sponsored "USA Pavilion" is steadily increasing. Among the companies that have confirmed their participation are Ibberson International, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and National Swine Registry which will exhibit in Hall 1, which will showcase livestock equipment and technology. Green Vet Biotechnology, Illinois Department of Agriculture, JBS United, Omega Protein, Star Labs, and U.S. Grain Council will be exhibiting in Hall 2 which is set aside for feed ingredients and additives. If interested as exhibitors, please contact Sharon Cook at USDA/FAS Trade Services Staff, Washington, D.C., Email: sharon.cook@fas.usda.gov.

